Historic Neelakantheswar temple in Papadahandi region of Orissa

2290. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the historic Neelakantheswar temple in Papadahandi region of Orissa is completely neglected;

(b) whether it is a fact that no archaeological survey has been made in this area; and

(c) If so, what action Government propose to take to develop this historic monument to serve as a tourist centre in this region?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Neelakantheswar temple in Papadahandi Region of Orissa is not a centrally protected monument. The Orissa State Archaeology Department has undertaken archaeological survey of the temple and based on this, the temple has been protected and conservation works undertaken.

No proposal has been received from the State Government of Orissa for developing the temple as a tourist centre.

Shifting of grave of Bahadur Shah Zafar

†2291. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a demand has been to shift the burial of Bahadur Shah Zafar the last Mughal Emperor and a leading soldier of the 1857 war againt the Britishers from Rangoon to the Red Fort;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government of Myanmar has been contacted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Bahadur Shah Zafar Memorial Society in 1949 proposed that

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

the mortal remains of Bahadur Shah Zafar should be transferred from Yangon to Delhi.

(b) It was decided that the proposal need not be pursued.

(c) and (d) Questions do not arise.

Declaration of Telugu as Classical language

2292. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to declare Telugu as a Classical language;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the criteria set to declare such languages as classical;

(e) whether there is any modification of rules to declare more languages as classical; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh and several other organizations have made representations to declare Telugu as. a classical language. The requests were forwarded to Sahitya Akademi for consideration of the Committee of Linguistic Experts constituted for the purpose.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Ministry of Home affairs created a new category of languages as 'Classical Languages' *vide* their notification dated 12th October, 2004 read with the Corrigendum Notification dated 29th October, 2004 and amended by Notification dated 25th November 2005. Accordingly, the following criteria was laid down to determine the eligibility of languages to be considered as 'Classical Languages':—

(i) High antiquity of its early texts/recorded history over a period of 1500-2000 years.

(ii) A body of ancient literature/texts, which is considered a valuable heritage by generations of speakers.